

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

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FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3095
INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 1519

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PGOV, ET
SUBJ: ANALYSIS OF NEW MINISTERIAL-LEVEL APPOINTMENTS

REF: ADDIS ABABA 1478

SUMMARY: MINISTERIAL-LEVEL APPOINTMENTS ANNOUNCED MARCH 11
GENERALLY REFLECT APPARENT DECISION TO STAFF CIVILIAN
POSITIONS WITH TECHNOCRATS, CONTRARY TO RUMORS APPOINT-
MENTS WOULD BE POLITICAL IN NATURE. MINISTERIAL APPOINT-
MENTS REFLECT SOME JUGGLING BETWEEN MINISTRIES,
PROMOTIONS WITHIN MINISTRIES AND FILLING OF PREVIOUSLY
VACANT POSITIONS FROM CIVIL SERVICE. APPOINTMENTS TO
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REGIONAL GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATIONS MADE IN CURRENTLY TROUBLED
PROVINCES. APPOINTMENTS DO NOT APPEAR TO REFLECT ANY ETHNIC
FAVORITISM NOR WHOLESALE DISPLACEMENT OF COMPETENT CIVIL
SERVANTS. DESPITE MEDIA ATTACKS AGAINST BUREAURACY IT SEEMS TO
HAVE SURVIVED THIS ROUND OF APPOINTMENTS INTACT. END SUMMARY.

1. SEVEN NEW CABINET MINISTERS HAVE ALL SERVED WITHIN ETHIOPIAN

BUREAUCRACY IN PAST. ONLY ONE NEW TO CIVILIAN MINISTRY IS FOREIGN MINISTER, COL. DR. FELEKE GEDLE-GHIORGIS. ACCORDING TO EMBASSY BIO FILES FELEKE BORN 1935 IN HARAR AND ROSE TO RANK OF CAPTAIN WITHIN H.I.M.'S SPECIAL BRANCH AS SECURITY OFFICER PRIOR TO 1962. THEREAFTER BEGAN LEGAL STUDIES IN YUGOSLAVIA SEPTEMBER, 1962 AT BELGRADE UNIVERSITY. HE RECEIVED PH.D. INTERNATIONAL LAW AND MARRIED YUGOSLAVIAN WHILE IN YUGOSLAVIA. AFTER RETURN TO ETHIOPIA HE EVENTUALLY BECAME CHIEF LEGAL ADVISOR TO POLICE DEPARTMENT. IN FEBRUARY, 1976 HE MEMBER PMAC DELEGATION TO YUGOSLAVIA. AS FAR AS EMBASSY ABLE TO DETERMINE, FELEKE HAS HAD NO OTHER PREVIOUS DIPLOMATIC EXPERIENCE.

2. OF ELEVEN PERMANENT SECRETARIES APPOINTED, ALL BUT TWO, LT. COL. MERSHA KETSELA (MINISTRY OF INTERIOR) AND MAJOR MAHARI MAASHO (MINISTRY OF LABOR) COME FROM CIVIL SERVICE. MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS NEW PERMANENT SECRETARY, MAJOR DAWIT WOLDE-GHIORGIS, FORMER DEPUTY CHIEF OF RELIEF & REHABILITATION COMMISSION, WAS BORN ADDIS ABABA 1939, ATTENDED HAILE SELASSIE I MILITARY ACADEMY AND THEN ATTACHED TO INFANTRY. CHARACTERIZED AS EXCELLENT OFFICER, FLUENT IN ENGLISH, HIGH DEGREE OF INTELLIGENCE, AND CAPABLE OF EVALUATING COMPLEX PROBLEMS. PRIOR TO JOINING RELIEF COMMISSION HE WORKED AT ZEMETCHA HEADQUARTERS WHERE HE REPORTEDLY DID EXCELLENT JOB. DAWIT WELL KNOWN AS EXTREMELY CAPABLE ADMINISTRATOR TO AID AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE ORGANIZATIONS.

3. REGIONAL GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION APPOINTMENTS REFLECT GROWING PMAC CONCERN ABOUT SECURITY IN ARUSSI, BALE, HARARGHE, AND SIDAMO PROVINCES. NEW ARUSSI CHIEF ADMINISTRATOR UNKNOWN TO CONFIDENTIAL

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EMBASSY. NEW BALE CHIEF ADMINISTRATOR WHO FORMERLY BALE DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR, ALLEGED TO HAVE HAD MAJOR FALLING OUT WITH FORMER BALE CHIEF ADMINISTRATOR, MAJOR TEFERRA WOLDE-TENSAE. NEW HARARGHE ADMINISTRATOR FORMERLY DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR. NEW SIDAMO CHIEF ADMINISTRATOR BELIEVED TO BE FRIEND OF DR. TEFERRA WONDE, MINISTER OF HEALTH. DEPUTY REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR APPOINTMENTS ALSO APPEAR TO REFLECT PMAC SECURITY CONCERNS, WITH BEGEMDIR PROVINCE GAINING NEW DEPUTY.

4. FORMER MOFA PERMANENT SECRETARY GETACHEW KIBRET, WHO PROBABLY WANTED OUT OF POSITION AS MOFA PERM SEC NOW IN POLITICAL ADVISORY ROLE. NEW POSITION, COMMISSIONER OF HIGHER EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS CREATED, PROBABLY TO IMPLEMENT JANUARY 14, 1977 EDUCATION PROCLAMATION. NEW CHIEF COMMISSIONER OF POLICE, FORMERLY POLICE COMMISSIONER FOR HARARGHE PROVINCE AND GRADUATE OF ABA DINA POLICE COLLEGE, WITH LAW DEGREE FROM HAILE SELASSIE I UNIVERSITY.

5. COMMENT: MOST STRIKING FEATURE OF LATEST APPOINTMENTS IS THEIR

PRAGMATIC CHARACTER. AGAINST BACKGROUND OF SHRILL ATTACKS AGAINST CIVIL SERVICE AND "BUREAUCRATIC CAPITALISTS" PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS SEEM TO HAVE PREVAILED OVER POLITICAL ONES. ON WHOLE, ETHIOPIAN BUREAUCRATS MUST BE REASSURED BY PMAC ACTIONS. END COMMENT.

6. EMBASSY WILL POUCH FULL BIO DATA TO DEPARTMENT.
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